



TESTING LEAVES FOR STARCH LAB SHEET



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____



AIM

To test a leaf for the presence of starch.



QUESTION

Will this leaf contain starch?
Why do you think so?



EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

- Leaf (fresh)
- Beaker
- Test tube / Boiling tube
- Heat source (hot plate)
- Water
- Ethanol (methylated spirits)
- Tongs
- Dropper / Pipette
- Iodine solution
- White tile / Spot plate
- Paper towel



SAFETY: Ethanol is flammable.
Keep away from flames and heat.



METHOD

1

Place the leaf in boiling water for 1–2 minutes.



2

Transfer the leaf to ethanol in a test tube.



3

Place the test tube in hot water until the leaf is pale/colourless.



4

Rinse the leaf in warm water to soften it.



5

Place the leaf on a white tile.



6

Add iodine solution to the leaf. Observe any colour change.



OBSERVATIONS

Step	What I saw	What happened	Drawing (if helpful)
Before iodine (Step 5)			
After iodine (Step 6)			



RESULTS

Did the leaf contain starch? Yes No

Evidence: _____



CONCLUSION

What does your result show?



KEY VOCABULARY

Starch: a stored food made by plants.

Photosynthesis: process plants use to make food.

Iodine solution: turns blue-black in the presence of starch.

Ethanol: a liquid used to remove chlorophyll (green colour).